30th October 1935]

Contracts for repairs to tanks in the Nellore district.

* 301 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur YAHYA ALI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money spent or proposed to be spent during the current financial year on repairs to Public Works Department tanks in the Nellore district—giving the list of tanks and the amount spent on or allotted to each tank;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Government have stipulated that the ayacutdars under each tank must have the right of getting contracts; if so, whether it has been observed all through;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that contracts were given to a few professional contractors in the name of some petty ayacutdars under each tank; if so, in how many cases it was done; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to call for investigation and report?

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member presumably refers to the works proposed to be carried out during the current year under the special accelerated and widespread programme of improvements to irrigation works. A statement giving the available information is laid down on the table.[a]

(*b*) Instructions have been issued by the Board of Revenue that the works selected should, as far as possible, be given on contract to the ayacutdars or to the chief persons selected by and from among them, or to village panchayats where they exist and are functioning.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) The Government do not consider it necessary to do so.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"With reference to clause (*b*) may I ask whether the hon. Member will be pleased to issue instructions to the other districts also to the effect that where such works are being carried out, the contracts should be given as far as possible to the ayacutdars or to the chief persons selected by and from among them, or to village panchayats where they exist and are functioning?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. SOUTER:—"These instructions of the Board of Revenue are general to all districts."

Progress of the proposal for the construction of an anicut across the Pillapperu river in Nellore district.

* 302 *Q.*—Khan Bahadur YAHYA ALI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) at what stage the question of constructing an anicut across the Pillapperu river in Nellore district is;

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[a] Printed as Appendix X on page 230 infra.